

one year closer to the goal



P u b l i c I n v o l v e m e n t

FY97

Our Mission

To provide a public involvement program that supports meaningful public participation and dialogue.

Our Vision

With management support and through a strategic public information and involvement program, the Public Outreach and Information Office will gain public acceptance of the need for safe and expeditious disposal of chemical warfare materiel.

Stakeholders:

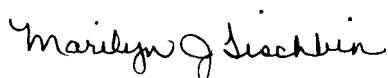
With the growth of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization's mission, changes in the political climate and increased public interest, the mission of the Public Outreach and Information Office is evolving and expanding. The past twelve months are marked by many changes in our approach to public involvement – each the result of an evaluation of our public involvement mission and goals, our internal structure and the relationships we have with our many stakeholders.

Early in the year, we changed our name from the traditional military designation of “Public Affairs Office” to the Public Outreach and Information Office, POIO for short. This change reemphasizes our commitment to providing stakeholders with the information and opportunities necessary for meaningful involvement in the Chemical Demilitarization Program. We developed mission and vision statements to capture and clarify our desire to involve people in the important mission of destroying our nation's chemical warfare materiel.

We also took a good look at both our programmatic goals and the site-specific needs of our many program locations. This self-examination revealed that we needed to refine the roles and responsibilities of our staff here at Command, as well coordinate and refine the roles and responsibilities of staff at installations and chemical activities and depots across the country. We needed to achieve a “one voice” organization which provides the guidance, support and resources needed to tailor programmatic goals to meet local public involvement needs.

Completing the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization's mission will be challenging and controversial until the last rocket is destroyed, the last buried bomb is found and the last facility is torn down. However, along the way we are learning that all sides of the issue can work together to reach everyone's ultimate goal of safe and expeditious disposal of chemical warfare materiel.

We've prepared this annual report to present the highlights of our public involvement efforts during fiscal year 1997. We welcome comments on where we've been and what we're doing, and even more important, where we're going. We encourage everyone who is interested in eliminating the threat of chemical warfare materiel to get involved as we move closer to the goal.



Best Regards,
Marilyn Tischbin
Chief, Public Outreach and Information Office

A man in a blue long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and a green baseball cap is running away from the camera on a paved road. To his right is a field of tall, golden-brown corn. The sky is clear and blue. The image is framed by a dark blue bar at the top and a teal bar at the bottom.

O n e Y e a r

*In a year when
the Chemical
Demilitarization
Program
realized
dramatic
success and
progress, one
constant was an
intense public
interest in
program
activities. In
fact, public
interest is and
will be a
formidable force
in shaping the
program's
direction.*

Closer to the Goal

- ***Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project***
In January 1997, several years of involvement by Maryland and Indiana stakeholders resulted in the funding of pilot studies of alternative neutralization technologies for bulk agent stored in those states.
- ***Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project***
As other projects explore alternative technologies, chemical agent disposal facilities are operating at Johnston Atoll and Deseret Chemical Depot, construction began at Umatilla Chemical Depot and Anniston Chemical Activity and Pine Bluff Chemical Activity is awaiting final permitting. Members of the community at each of these sites participated in the permitting process.
- ***Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project***
The Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel continues work on a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement which will evaluate alternatives for dealing with a wide range of non-stockpile materiel in 38 states and territories. After an intensive information-gathering effort and with input from a national steering committee, regional public scoping meetings were held in FY97.
- ***Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program***
The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program is an Army-funded program that is managed at the state and local level in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- ***Cooperative Threat Reduction***
Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, the United States is providing both technical and financial support to the Russian Federation to eliminate Russia's weapons of mass destruction. The primary thrust of this support is to develop programs and initiatives that help the Russians help themselves. An important component is effective public information and involvement efforts which facilitate ongoing communication with Russian citizens about the chemical weapons disposal process.
- ***Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment***
The FY97 Defense Appropriations Act directed an assessment of alternative technologies for disposing of assembled chemical weapons. Although construction of a disposal facility is on hold in Colorado and Kentucky pending results, the public continues to be involved in evaluation of possible technologies. The Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment is being carried out through a separate Army Program Manager.

Each of these program areas invites public interest and presents public involvement challenges. With enthusiastic support from the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, the POIO evaluated and realigned its structure to provide programmatic guidance and support to the program sites. Recognizing that each site has issues and needs unique to its community, region and state, during FY97 the POIO:

- Developed program-level public involvement strategies that align public involvement activities with technical and regulatory program milestones.
- Opened four new community outreach offices; each of the eight continental U.S. stockpile communities now has an outreach office.
- Recognized that the public involvement staff at the sites are in the best position to understand local involvement needs, and established and empowered site teams to develop site-specific public involvement plans.
- Established a working group of state legislators as a national forum to inform, involve and receive input from legislators from program area states.
- Continued to develop strategies and implementation plans for environmental justice and Native American issues.

With the advent of a more strategic approach to information and involvement at the Command level, each program area is developing its strategy. The result is a true collaboration among our many internal stakeholders to accomplish the key programmatic objective of a "one voice" approach to public information and involvement. But the collaborative effort doesn't stop there. It also reflects the important partnerships that have been formed with community members, local officials, Citizens' Advisory Commissions, advocacy groups and the military. The public involvement strategies, taking all of these partnerships into consideration, are a reflection of this teamwork. Accomplishments in each program area and in the stockpile site communities are highlighted on the following pages.

To contact us for more information:
(800) 488-0648
<http://www-pmcd.apgea.army.mil>



***The
Alternative
Technologies
and
Approaches
Project is in
itself a direct
response to
stakeholder
input from
Maryland and
Indiana
communities
over the past
several years.***

In response to public concern about incineration, the Army established a research and development program. The Army initiated the necessary actions to pilot test neutralization technologies to dispose of bulk agent stored in Maryland and Indiana early in 1997.

The Product Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches recognizes there are many questions about this complex, innovative technology. With an aggressive schedule for securing environmental approvals by 1998 and initiating construction of both facilities in 1999, public understanding of the process ahead is crucial to the Project's success.

As noted in the National Research Council's October 1996 letter report on public involvement, "At every stage of the decision-making process concerning the evaluation and selection of alternative technologies, public input and comment have been solicited and feedback has been provided to the Citizens' Advisory Commissions and the public." The Alternative Technologies and Approaches' public involvement strategy is leading the Project beyond a foundation of regulation-driven milestone hearings and comment periods to a host of early, ongoing forums and materials designed to involve the public before the environmental and technical decisions are finalized.

a l t e r n a t i v e t e c h n o l



Involvement

In a dedicated effort to increase participation in the public meetings to be held in FY98 and ensure public input into the regulatory decision-making and approval process, the Project's public involvement team initiated an aggressive campaign to develop new information products about the neutralization process and the pilot facilities. These materials were made available to the public through

direct mailings and public forums, used by Army personnel and members of the Citizens' Advisory Commission in briefings and speeches and incorporated into regulatory documents. The result is greater public awareness of the science of the neutralization, biodegradation and supercritical water oxidation processes as well as increased public involvement in the decision-making process.

Highlights

- The Project's public involvement team developed a strategic plan for public information and involvement, detailing opportunities and mechanisms for involvement along with roles and responsibilities for implementing these initiatives.
- Both the Maryland and Indiana Citizens' Advisory Commissions endorsed the Army's selected alternative technologies for stockpile disposal in their states.
- Permit modification pre-application meetings, co-sponsored by the Citizens' Advisory Commission, drew area residents at Chestertown and Edgewood, Maryland.
- Citizens' Advisory Commission members in Maryland and Indiana co-sponsored and participated in scoping meetings for Environmental Impact Statements.
- Indiana and Maryland Citizens' Advisory Commission members became full participants of the Working Integrated Project Team. This group comprises representatives of Army, federal and state agencies who will jointly review all technical documentation during the life of the Project.
- Citizens' Advisory Commission members worked with the Army to develop information products and joined Project personnel at speaking engagements to communicate their support for the neutralization process.
- Outreach offices opened to the public in Edgewood and Newport.



The key to the success of the program is the cooperation among the myriad of emergency management agencies at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program teams the Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state and local emergency planning agencies near our nation's chemical stockpiles to enhance the community's emergency preparedness until the weapons are safely destroyed.

Working together in the stockpile communities, these agencies provide information to the public about the emergency response procedures and resources that are in place to ensure their safety in the unlikely event of a chemical weapons-related accident. Although the Army transferred oversight of the program from the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization to the Chemical and Biological Defense Command at the end of the fiscal year, local information and public involvement initiatives will continue to meet the unique needs of each stockpile community. The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program uses public involvement techniques in planning and implementing ways for community members to receive emergency response instructions and act on them.

chemical stockpile em



Involvement

Although the idea for developing a Community Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program brochure was initiated at the programmatic level, all levels, including local and state stakeholders, were invited to join in the process. The intent of the product is to inform the public about the progress of emergency preparedness and how their individual communities benefit by being participants. In their commitment to involve the public in this project, members of the team developing the brochure sought feedback from the stockpile communities about how the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program has enhanced local emergency preparedness. Community leaders

such as county commissioners, college professors, mayors and members of local chambers of commerce were interviewed and individual quotes from these leaders at each site were included in the final product.

Emergency managers and their public affairs officers in each of the 41 counties, 10 states and 6 Federal Emergency Management Agency region offices reviewed the contents and offered comments. From conception to distribution, the communities, emergency responders and site personnel were a part of the process. The now published brochure is the result of team work between the Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, emergency responders in all jurisdictions and the public at large.

Highlights

- The Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement. This agreement delineates the responsibilities for each of these two federal agencies to streamline the program's management and funding.
- Joint Information Centers are available at all stockpile sites. During emergencies, the centers are staffed with public information representatives from all federal, state and local agencies responding to the emergency. These agencies provide the public with official information on the progress of the emergency response efforts. The Joint Information Centers are available for the community to use in any emergency, not just in a chemical stockpile emergency.
- A Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program brochure was coordinated, produced and distributed nationwide. The brochure, developed by the Army and coordinated with every agency in the program and the public, describes the program and how it has helped to enhance top-notch emergency response at each of the stockpile sites.
- Wally Wise Guy, the national shelter-in-place mascot, was introduced as an important tool to educate children and their parents about what they need to do in the event of an emergency. Wally uses the same techniques to teach shelter-in-place as have been successfully developed and utilized by other public education campaigns, such as forest fire reduction (Smokey the Bear), crime prevention (McGruff, the Crime Dog) and litter control (Hootie the Owl).



***The
Cooperative
Threat
Reduction
Project is
designed to
provide
technical and
financial
assistance to
the Russian
Federation in
eliminating its
weapons of
mass
destruction.***

Under this program, the United States is contributing both technical and financial support to initiate destruction of the former Soviet Union's chemical weapons stockpile. The primary goal is to develop initiatives that help the Russians help themselves. These efforts include providing technical evaluation and funding the design and construction for the disposal technology chosen for the first Russian chemical weapons disposal facility at Shchuch'ye.

The United States will also be providing state-of-the-art equipment and technological expertise to aid monitoring of the stored chemical weapons and to evaluate the effectiveness of the selected disposal technology. To ensure that these initiatives are met, Russian personnel will be trained to use the analytical and monitoring equipment and support operations at the new facility. They will also be assisted in the conduct of Russian Federation public information and involvement efforts to facilitate communication with Russian citizens about the chemical weapons disposal process.

There are three specific goals for these efforts: create and implement a Russian-managed, Russian-funded chemical weapons disposal program; encourage other nations to assist with international demilitarization objectives; and enhance U.S. national security by contributing to the destruction of the world's largest stockpile of chemical weapons.

c o o p e r a t i v e t h



Involvement

The Cooperative Threat Reduction Project funds supported public hearings on the destruction of chemical weapons in the Russian Federation. The hearings took place in the Kurgan Region near the town of Shchuch'ye, where the first Russian chemical weapons disposal facility will be located. From July 7 through 10, 1997, Russian citizens, local government representatives, experts from the leading scientific institutions in Russia, members of the Ministry of Defense and technical experts from the United States met to discuss the Justification of Investment for designing and constructing the Shchuch'ye facility. Participants attended briefings and contributed to open discussions about the nearby stockpile of chemical weapons, the potential problems posed by the storage of those weapons, and the issues surrounding

chemical weapons disposal. For the first time ever, the Ministry of Defense accepted the Question and Answer format at their public hearings. Representatives from the Ministry of Defense, Kurgan Administration and Russian citizens were invited to tour the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and meet with representatives of the Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission and Tooele County Commissioners.

Green Cross Russia organized the hearings and prepared and distributed brochures on topics of interest to the general public. Under the theme "From Confrontation to Cooperation," the hearings were a forum to both communicate information and facilitate discussion about community concerns and develop follow-up recommendations based on ideas expressed during the hearings.

Highlights

- The United States and Russia ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- Public Outreach and Education Offices were established in Kurgan and Shchuch'ye with the signing of Russian Federation law "On the Destruction of Chemical Weapons."
- Public hearings were held in the Kurgan Oblast.



***As part of the
Program
Manager for
Chemical
Demilitarization,
the Non-
Stockpile
Chemical
Materiel Project
is committed to
involving the
public in
program
planning and
subsequent
disposal
activities for this
complex project.***

The Project Manager is responsible for the centralized management and the safe, environmentally sound and cost effective disposal of non-stockpile chemical materiel found at 96 locations in 38 states, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. This materiel is divided into five categories and includes: buried chemical warfare materiel, recovered chemical weapons, former chemical weapons production facilities, binary chemical weapons and miscellaneous chemical warfare materiel.

In FY97, as a baseline for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement process, the Project gathered information from stakeholders across the country. Mid-year, the public was invited to regional public scoping meetings to provide their input to the process. Based on comments received, the Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel is working with stakeholders to finalize a national public involvement strategy. Recognizing that Project success hinges on public participation, the Army continues information and involvement campaigns to provide the public with opportunities for input into the decision-making process.

n o n - s t o c k p i l e c



Involvement

At the beginning of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, a major project milestone, the Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel sponsored numerous one-on-one stakeholder meetings to provide information and clarification and receive feedback on how stakeholders want to be involved in the decision-making process for the destruction of non-stockpile chemical warfare materiel. Going a step beyond, the Project Manager began a

dialogue this year with Native American tribal representatives and environmental advocacy groups traditionally associated with the stockpile sites. As this effort expands, a key focus will be identifying local issues and interacting directly with the public at non-stockpile sites. One such dialogue with tribal representatives resulted in a plan for transporting binary weapons that meets local needs.

Highlights

- A public involvement steering committee oversees public involvement activities nationwide during the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement process. This committee is represented by the U.S. Army Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization; the U.S. Army Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel; the Department of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, and the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs; the Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Environmental Health; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville; the U.S. Army Environmental Center; the Defense Logistics Agency; Headquarters, U.S. Air Force; Chief of Naval Operations; Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and the U.S. Army Materiel Command.
- As part of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, program staff set up 51 information repositories at public locations around non-stockpile sites and mailed out hundreds of information packets to interested stakeholders.
- In advance of regional scoping meetings, advertisements were placed in 51 newspapers nationwide to notify the public of the scoping meetings. The advertisements also included an 800 telephone number and an Internet address for public comments.
- Recognizing the complexity of the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project, informational briefings and presentations are continually offered to local, national and international audiences, and environmental organizations.



***The Chemical
Stockpile
Disposal
Project is
charged with
the safe
disposal of the
unitary
weapons stored
at the
stockpile
sites.***

Currently, there are two chemical agent disposal facilities operating, one at Deseret Chemical Depot in Tooele, Utah, and the other at Johnston Atoll in the Pacific. Activities increased substantially at the site level during FY97 as construction began on similar facilities in Hermiston, Oregon, and Anniston, Alabama. As soon as the permitting process is completed, construction will begin in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

In light of the unique nature of construction and operation activities at each site, the primary objective of our initiatives is to encourage public involvement in local decision-making. At first glance, it may seem that the major decisions about disposal technologies have been made and that few chances remain for meaningful public involvement. In fact, many milestones and decisions remain in the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project and every decision can benefit from public involvement. Applying lessons learned and incorporating public input will support sound decision-making. Examples of the many public involvement opportunities provided during FY97 include the Change Management Process, focus groups and community surveys, roundtable meetings and ad hoc committees established to address specific issues as they arose in each community.



Involvement

The Change Management Process provides the public with opportunities to affect decisions concerning the construction and operation of present and future chemical agent disposal facilities. The combination of value- and risk-based decision making will allow the Project Manager for Chemical Stockpile Disposal to apply lessons learned at the stockpile sites while incorporating community concerns far ahead of any request

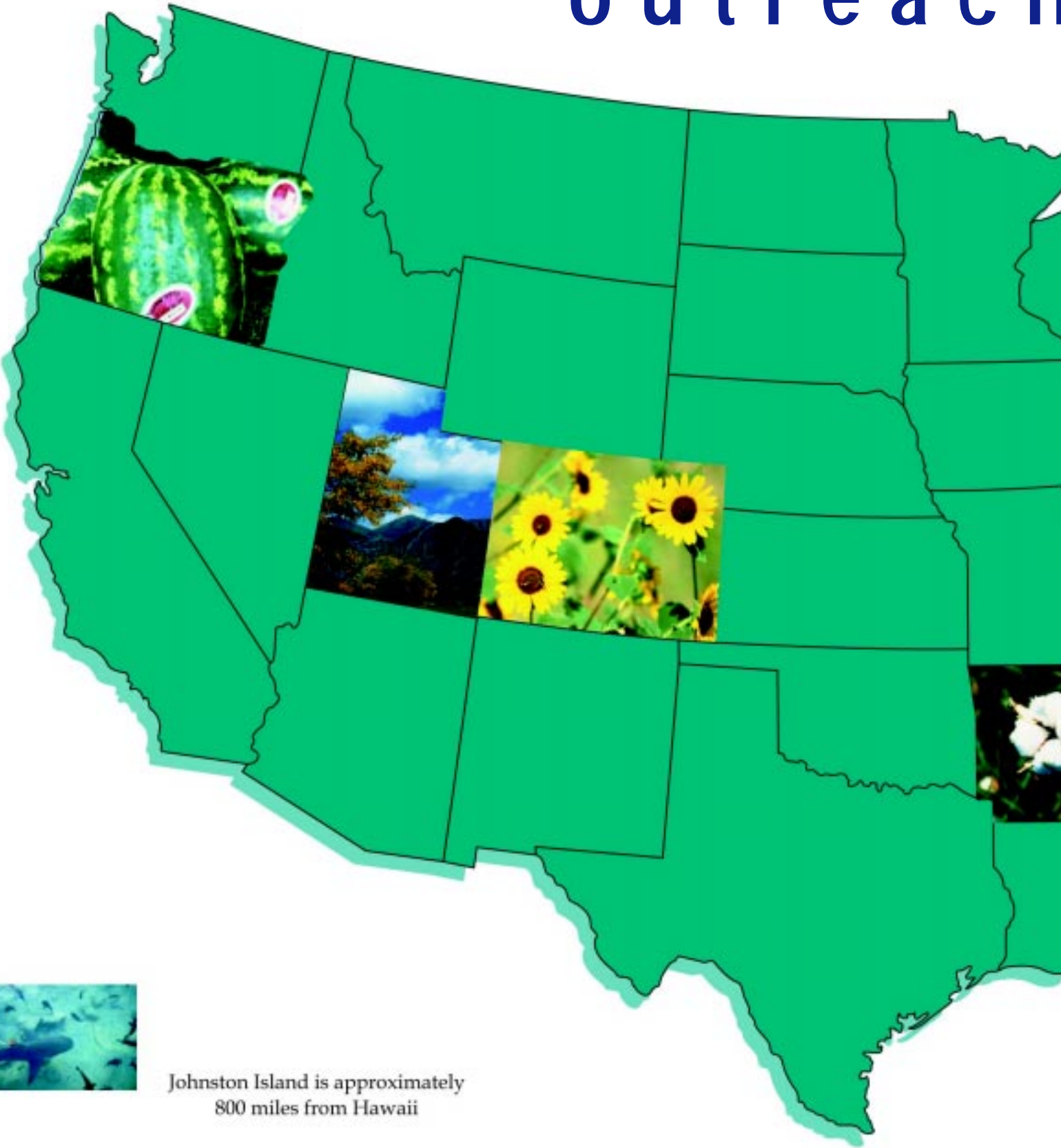
for modifications to the actual construction or operating permits. During FY97, project staff hosted sessions in Alabama, Oregon, and Utah to solicit public input as to how the process would best be conducted.

Comments and suggestions gathered during the sessions are being incorporated into the *Guide to Risk Management Policies and Activities* and will help shape the process the Army will use in making decisions.

Highlights

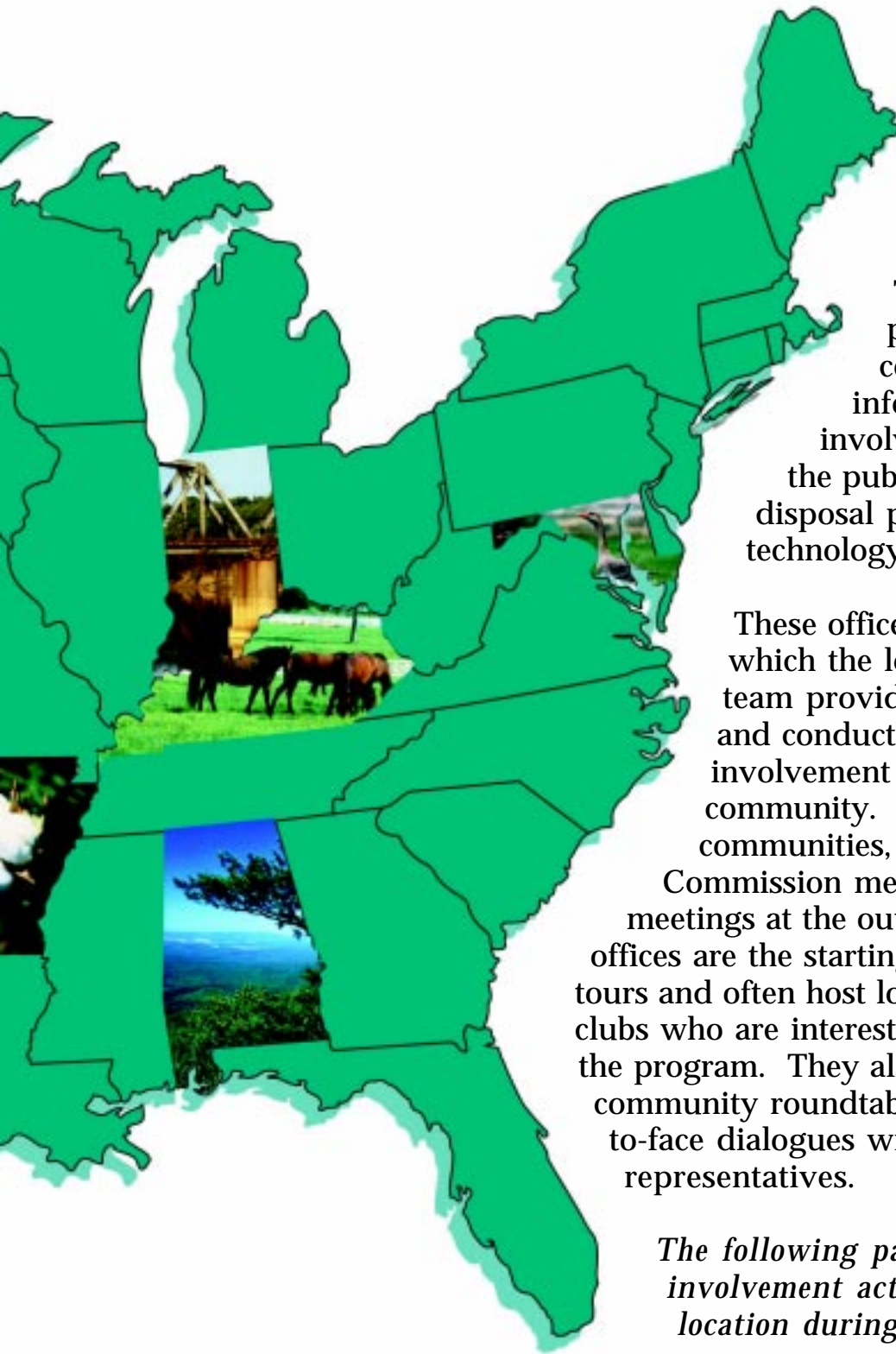
- In response to requests from residents of Utah, the Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission sponsored an independent review of safety at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The study, developed as a result of public involvement, found that facility operations are safe and do not pose a threat to either plant employees or the surrounding public.
- The POIO supported the Environmental Protection Agency's Region IX staff at meetings in Hawaii held to gather public input to proposed permit modifications for the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System.
- After a series of public meetings where comments and suggestions were provided by members of local communities, the states of Oregon and Alabama issued permits for construction of chemical agent disposal facilities.
- Throughout the year, the Army participated in community roundtable discussions in Alabama, building relationships in the community and asking for input on how the public wants to be informed and involved.
- After several years of involvement by the Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission, state residents and local university students, the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project finalized an Agricultural Impact Statement that resulted in a baseline assessment protocol for measuring the impact of chemical weapons incineration on the environment.
- At every site, outreach office staff continue to manage booths at state and local fairs, business expos and other events to talk about the Project and encourage people to ask questions and voice their concerns.

o u t r e a c h



Johnston Island is approximately
800 miles from Hawaii

office overview



Community outreach offices at each of the eight stockpile sites are the cornerstone of the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project's public involvement program. The outreach offices are part of the program-wide commitment to provide information and involvement opportunities to the public throughout the disposal process, whatever the technology.

These offices are a home base from which the local public involvement team provides program information and conducts a wide range of involvement activities in the community. In many stockpile communities, the Citizens' Advisory Commission members conduct their meetings at the outreach office. Outreach offices are the starting point for installation tours and often host local school groups and clubs who are interested in learning more about the program. They also are the location for community roundtable discussions and face-to-face dialogues with program representatives.

The following pages highlight public involvement activities at each stockpile location during FY97.



Anniston

Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office ~ 1227 Noble Street ~
Anniston, Alabama 36201 ~ (205) 238-0120

***The Outreach
Office has
become a
“one-stop
shopping”
place for a
wealth of
information on
the Chemical
Demilitarization
Program.***

During FY97, the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization received the environmental permits necessary to begin construction of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The systems contractor, Westinghouse Electric Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, set up headquarters in Anniston and activities moved into high gear. Construction start-up resulted in heightened interest among Anniston-area stakeholders.

Community roundtables, Speakers' Bureau engagements, school programs and public workshops are keeping the public involvement team busy. In FY97, program staff kept 69 speaking engagements – more than one per week – with interested Anniston residents.

In the coming months, the Change Management Process will engage stakeholders even more in decision-making during construction of the disposal facility.



FY97 statistics

1,289 outreach office visitors

27 media inquiries/events

69 speaking engagements reaching 2,148 people

9 public meetings reaching 1,175 people

2 fairs & festivals reaching 2,149 people

1 information repository

date outreach office opened: January 1996

Involvement

To facilitate public involvement at Anniston, Westinghouse and the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project hold ongoing monthly community roundtables. Overseen by the project site manager, the roundtables are usually informal and participants meet over a business-style lunch, bringing a variety of local interests to the same table. Topics vary due to the facility's schedule and have addressed such issues as incineration as a disposal process, the effects of a chemical agent disposal facility on the local economy, hiring practices, construction updates and emergency plans. These informal luncheons help the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility public involvement team build relationships in the community that foster continuing input and dialogue.

Roundtable participants gave the Army some important advice in FY97 that enabled the public involvement team to reach new audiences. It was suggested that to best reach Anniston-area residents, involvement efforts should be directed toward neighborhood churches and schools. In response, the Speakers' Bureau is geared toward local congregations and fellowship groups, and emphasis is placed on classroom presentations.





Blue Grass

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office ~ 117 East Main Street ~ Richmond, Kentucky 40475 ~ (606) 626-8944

***Consistent
messages of
continued safe
storage of the
stockpile and the
Army's
commitment to
involving the
community in
decision-making
are the foundation
of outreach efforts
at Blue Grass.***

In October 1996, Blue Grass Chemical Activity became one of two stockpile sites named in the FY97 Defense Appropriations Act to participate in the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment program. The law placed further development of the incineration facility on hold while criteria for alternative technologies for disposing of assembled weapons are developed and new methods are demonstrated.

At the same time, the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office opened. It quickly became a gathering place for the many interested and involved Kentucky residents who live in the Richmond area. The office displays a wealth of information including a *Viewpoints* section for local advocacy groups. Throughout the year, the site public involvement team hosted Citizens' Advisory Commission meetings, community briefings and school programs.

Whatever method is ultimately chosen to dispose of the Blue Grass stockpile, information and involvement efforts focus on providing balanced and current information about the site to Richmond area residents.



Involvement

Blue Grass outreach office initiatives in FY97 focused on new ways to generate stakeholder feedback. Year long activities culminated in September 1997 at a facilitated community roundtable held at the outreach office. A group of 25 community members, representing the varied views of Blue Grass stakeholders, participated in a discussion which focused on current outreach office efforts as well as the community's future information and involvement needs.

The outcome of this community involvement effort was several action items, each of which will ask for and incorporate further stakeholder involvement. The site public involvement team will support a public opinion survey to gather input and feedback about the public's information and participation needs. Participants asked for a process to track responses to citizen questions and concerns. All agreed to provide feedback to help develop a guide for the placement of office information. Finally, participants will provide suggestions for information on the program and Blue Grass World Wide Web site pages.

FY97 statistics

1,214 outreach office visitors

19 media inquiries/events

31 speaking engagements reaching 532 people

9 public meetings reaching 203 people

5 fairs & festivals reaching 1,325 people

2 information repositories

date outreach office opened: October 1996





Edgewood

Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office ~ Woodbridge Station, 1011B Woodbridge Center Way ~
Edgewood, Maryland 21040 ~ (410) 676-6800

Edgewood Chemical Activity is one of two stockpile sites where chemical agent is stored only in bulk. This presented singular opportunities to look for ways other than incineration to dispose of the mustard agent stored there in ton containers. Maryland citizens, working directly with the Product Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches and the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization through the Citizens' Advisory Commission, helped to shape an alternative technology solution.

***Maryland
citizens continue
to provide input
into the
decisions that
will determine
design,
operation and
oversight
specifics for the
neutralization
facility.***

After five years of studying alternative technologies with the involvement of the National Research Council and the Maryland Citizens' Advisory Commission, the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization announced the decision this fiscal year to pursue pilot testing of neutralization followed by biodegradation at Edgewood. The process to obtain the necessary state and federal approvals is underway. Maryland citizens participated in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit modification pre-application meetings in March. In June, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Army and the Citizens' Advisory Commission co-hosted Environmental Impact Statement scoping meetings in Chestertown and Edgewood.



FY97 statistics

306 outreach office visitors

13 media inquiries/events

12 speaking engagements reaching 359 people

8 public meetings reaching 320 people

6 fairs & festivals reaching 325 people

6 information repositories

date outreach office opened: June 1997

Involvement

As the Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project moved into FY97, the Maryland Citizens' Advisory Commission had both contributed to the development of the criteria used to evaluate alternative technologies under consideration and completed its independent evaluation of the candidates. Following the Project's decision to adopt the neutralization technology, the Citizens' Advisory Commission members held consensus-building workshops that resulted in public endorsement of the decision.





Johnston Atoll

Since beginning operations in 1990, more than 2.5 million pounds of agent and more than 68 percent of the total stockpile stored at JACADS has been processed.

The Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) is one of two chemical weapons disposal facilities currently operating within the framework of the Chemical Demilitarization Program. Located in the Pacific Ocean approximately 800 miles southwest of Hawaii, JACADS is tasked with the destruction of four million pounds of chemical agent.

In addition to the chemical weapons stockpile and the disposal facility, however, the island also is home to a national wildlife refuge harboring a wide variety of seabirds and aquatic life, including several types of whales and some endangered species. For JACADS, not only did 1997 mark the seventh year of operation and the milestone of over two-thirds of the island's original stockpile destroyed, it also saw a continuation in the trend of steady increases in the island's sensitive bird populations.

During the past year, the Army continued to place enormous emphasis on the protection of the environment surrounding the JACADS as demonstrated by the numerous ongoing environmental study efforts. Even facility personnel volunteered their time in the interest of assisting wildlife monitoring on and around the Atoll.

Involvement

Despite the facility's relative isolation, operations on the island still receive public attention. The Environmental Protection Agency organized a question and answer session and a public hearing in Honolulu, Hawaii, and accepted written comments this past summer in response to the proposed approval of a new permit for the JACADS. This new permit would strengthen the existing permit based on experience obtained from several years of monitoring by the agency and make already stringent

requirements even tighter and more comprehensive. However, for the public, probably the most significant evidence that operations at JACADS are safe is represented by the incinerator's location next door to a thriving wildlife refuge — illustrating that the disposal of some of the world's most deadly weapons can occur in a manner compatible with the preservation of wildlife when undertaken with proper precautions and concern.





Newport

Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office ~ ATTN: SCBNE-CO, P.O. Box 517, U.S. Highway 63 ~
Newport, Indiana 47966-0517 ~ (765) 245-4597

***The Newport
public
involvement
team worked
with the Indiana
Citizens'
Advisory
Commission to
enhance the
public's
participation in
the involvement
process during
FY97 through
novel outreach
concepts.***

Like Edgewood Chemical Activity in Maryland, Newport Chemical Depot stores bulk chemical agent in ton containers. These containers of nerve agent VX make up the entire stockpile stored at the depot. At the conclusion of the Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project evaluation and selection process, the citizens of Indiana, through the Indiana Citizens' Advisory Commission, concurred with the findings and recommended neutralization, followed by supercritical water oxidation, for pilot testing.

In accordance with the *Strategic Implementation Plan for Public Involvement*, the public involvement team sponsored an Environmental Impact Statement scoping meeting and prepared for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act pre-application meeting in FY97. These meetings facilitated public input on environmental and safety issues that will be considered throughout the design, construction, and operation of the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. In order to provide ample opportunity for outlying communities to participate in the disposal process dialogue, the site public involvement team arranged availability sessions with Alternative Technologies and Approaches technical personnel and roundtable discussions with the depot Commander.



FY97 statistics

48 outreach office visitors

31 media inquiries/events

26 speaking engagements reaching 2,365 people

6 public meetings reaching 41 people

5 fairs & festivals reaching 320 people

8 information repositories

date outreach office opened: June 1997

Involvement

During a Citizens' Advisory Commission dialogue with the Newport public involvement team, one commission member stated, "Because of the Newport community's geographic and political make-up, a static office would not serve our needs. People will not go to the office, you have to go to them." As a result of this input, the site team launched plans for a mobile outreach unit.

The Newport Chemical Depot public involvement team, in concert with the Newport community and the Indiana Citizens' Advisory Commission, is tailoring its efforts to the unique needs of its community. The permanent outreach office is located at the depot, and a mobile unit will allow site involvement team members to reach out geographically to other stakeholders. The close working relationship between the Product Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches and the Citizens' Advisory Commission continues to be the foundation of a partnership with the community.





Pine Bluff

Pine Bluff Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office ~ 3007 West 28th Street ~ Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603 ~ (870) 534-4901

***The Pine
Bluff and
White Hall
communities
are strongly
connected to
Army
operations at
the Pine
Bluff Arsenal
and
Chemical
Activity.***

The Pine Bluff Arsenal played an important role in the early years of the chemical warfare materiel disposal effort as the site of the BZ Destruction Facility in the 1980s. Interest is high as construction of the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is close to beginning. While the Army waits for final word from the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology on the environmental permit required to build the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, requests from the public for information and involvement are increasing.

Through creative activities directed to a wide range of stakeholders, the public involvement team reached over 13,000 Arkansas residents in FY97. The Pine Bluff Community Outreach Office, originally opened in June 1996, relocated to a larger space in a busy community center in January 1997. Highlights of the year's efforts include telling the chemical stockpile disposal story to a deaf resident in American Sign Language. This experience led to identifying a larger group of deaf and hearing-impaired citizens who want to learn more about the disposal efforts. Plans are in the works for a roundtable discussion with deaf and hearing-impaired citizens in the Pine Bluff community.



FY97 statistics

469 outreach office visitors

9 media inquiries/events

18 speaking engagements reaching 684 people

14 public meetings reaching 2,980 people

14 fairs & festivals reaching 9,455 people

12 information repositories

date outreach office opened: June 1996

Involvement

Geographically, the small communities around the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity are dispersed over a fairly large area. Although the outreach office is centrally located in the city of Pine Bluff, access by residents of surrounding communities can sometimes be difficult. To help develop a response to this situation, the public involvement team invited suggestions from community leaders and business people, as well as civic groups and the Citizens' Advisory Commission. The resulting suggestions led to a decision to visit public areas in those communities.

Cooperative agreements on space and location were quickly worked out in a number of area business and public buildings. The site team put together a number of traveling outreach modules and set up in bank lobbies, libraries, and common areas of shopping malls. Depending on space constraints, these modules could include fact sheets, brochures, small models of weapon types, and a scale model of a baseline incineration plant. Asking for and acting on suggestions from the community enhanced the quality and quantity of Pine Bluff citizens' information and involvement in ways that met local needs.





Pueblo

Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office ~ Building 6, Community Learning Center ~
Pueblo Chemical Depot ~ ATTN: SCBPU-PA ~ 45825 Highway 96 East ~
Pueblo, Colorado 81006-9330 ~ (719) 549-4877

***In response to
public concern
about baseline
incineration
technology,
Congress
allocated \$40
million to the
Department of
Defense in the
second quarter
of FY97 to
create the
Assembled
Chemical
Weapons
Assessment
Program.***

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program's objective is to identify and develop at least two alternative technologies for disposing of assembled chemical weapons currently stored at Pueblo and one other stockpile storage site. Initially, Colorado citizens joined Army representatives, national citizen groups and state regulators in a national dialogue charged with identifying evaluation criteria for potential technologies. Working through the summer, the dialogue group reached agreement on criteria which helped the Army move ahead with identifying qualified technologies.

While awaiting the outcome of the assessment, the public involvement team continued to provide many information and involvement opportunities for Colorado citizens. The Pueblo Community Outreach Office serves as a focal point for information exchange, depot tours and school programs. An active Speakers' Bureau responds to requests for community presentations with a panel of 15 experts who can address various topics of interest to local residents.



FY97 statistics

1,129 outreach office visitors

10 media inquiries/events

18 speaking engagements reaching 352 people

17 public meetings reaching 379 people

2 fairs & festivals reaching 1,800 people

4 information repositories

date outreach office opened: April 1997

Involvement

Beyond involvement in the dialogue group on assembled chemical weapons, people in the Pueblo area actively participate in other depot stockpile-related issues. Team Pueblo, a local initiative developed following the 1988 Base Closure and Realignment Act, is a dynamic coalition between the community and the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Committed to ensuring maximum benefit to the community when disposal of the stockpile is complete, Team Pueblo provides a forum for active public involvement in making important decisions facing the Pueblo community. The eventual disposal of the stockpile, depot reuse, wildlife management and attracting business and industry are at the forefront of local initiatives. Activities like the Pueblo Earth Day and depot tours provided opportunities for area residents to become more involved in FY97.





Tooele

Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office ~ 60 South Main Street, Suite 1 ~ Tooele, Utah 84074 ~ (435) 882-3773

***As the first
stockpile site
in the
continental
United States
to build and
operate a
chemical
disposal
facility, public
information
and
involvement
initiatives are
ever-changing
to meet project
milestones.***

The site public involvement team provides an array of activities. Over 350 citizens toured the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility this year. These tours allow an up-close view of the facility's safety and technology features. Since the United States ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in April 1997, a high level of treaty activity is taking place at Deseret Chemical Depot. Several groups of Russian citizens visited the area this year; they were especially impressed with the public involvement program and the information available in the Tooele Outreach Office.

Tooele area residents also provided many suggestions on how best to implement the Change Management Process at the facility. Through efforts like tours, presentations and fairs, the site team reaches thousands of people with factual, timely information. A better understanding of operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and of the regulatory and public involvement process is resulting in a public better prepared to be meaningfully involved in the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project.



FY97 statistics

575 outreach office visitors

30 media inquiries/events

35 speaking engagements reaching 2,799 people

11 public meetings reaching 969 people

8 fairs & festivals reaching 1,034 people

1 information repository

380 tours

date outreach office opened: June 1995

Involvement

At a Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission meeting in late spring 1997, local residents requested a comprehensive information resource covering all aspects of chemical stockpile disposal at Deseret Chemical Depot. Public comments suggested the information guide be designed to reach a large portion of the area's population while also being cost effective. Based on this input, the Citizens' Advisory Commission decided to produce a newspaper supplement for the 300,000 citizens living along the Wasatch Front, which includes Tooele County as well as Salt Lake, Utah, Weber and Davis counties.

At the request of the Citizens' Advisory Commission, the public involvement team joined with local, county and state emergency management public information offices to publish the newspaper insert. Several local advocacy groups also contributed to this publication, ensuring representation of all viewpoints. In early September 1997, residents received "A Discussion about Chemical Weapons" in their local newspapers. A subsequent public survey found that people felt the supplement was very informative and educational.





Umatilla

Umatilla Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office ~ 245-B East Main Street ~ Hermiston, Oregon 97838 ~ (541) 564-9339

***The Umatilla
Chemical Depot
showed its
responsiveness to
stakeholders by
expanding the
number of depot
and construction
site tours to
accommodate
increasing public
interest.***

As the second continental United States stockpile site to break ground for construction of a disposal facility, the Umatilla public involvement team fielded many questions in FY97 regarding this important programmatic milestone. To respond, the team initiated an information campaign through the outreach office designed to brief stakeholders about issues and events surrounding initial phases of construction.

Anticipating future decisions about the disposal process, the team also hosted a Change Management workshop. The Change Management process will involve the Umatilla community in making value judgments and risk-based decisions about proposed technical innovations, and incorporating lessons learned at other disposal facilities. The workshop doubled as a forum to elicit ideas from the public on how they prefer to be involved.



FY97 statistics

2,114 outreach office visitors

77 media inquiries/events

38 speaking engagements reaching 858 people

23 public meetings reaching 885 people

8 fairs & festivals reaching 1,936 people

6 information repositories

date outreach office opened: March 1996

Involvement

Information and involvement initiatives are guided by the needs expressed by area citizens, including those of special populations. Of concern to the site public involvement team, approximately 20 percent of Umatilla's stakeholder population is Hispanic. To overcome potential barriers, the site team tailors materials and activities to suit this population. For example, the Umatilla Community Outreach Office spearheaded an effort to cross the language barrier by translating fact sheets and other informational materials into Spanish. These materials are kept on display at the outreach office. They were also distributed by the site public involvement team during this year's Mexican Independence Celebration, which was attended by many Hispanic stakeholders. Information and involvement efforts will continue to develop new dialogue opportunities that reach into this community and others in Umatilla's population.



o n e y e a r

FY97 saw a regenerated “public affairs” function as we made the transition from public information source to public involvement conduit. Beginning by renaming ourselves as the Public Outreach and Information Office, we went on to build a new structure aligned with and more effectively supporting the technical Project and Product Managers within the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization’s organization. We paved the way for change with strategic programmatic road maps for public involvement.

Our *Overarching Strategic Involvement Plan* and the *Public Involvement Strategy for the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project* declare programmatic goals and key messages that are guideposts for other program areas. These strategic plans are the foundation for a “one voice” approach to site plans tailored to meeting local needs. In FY97, we realized our goal of maintaining an outreach office in each stockpile community. Each passing day brings more interested citizens to these enormously successful offices. Thousands of people in every stockpile state heard speakers on complex technologies, met with program representatives face-to-face, reviewed documents, posed questions and received straightforward answers. The compilation of data and success stories documented in this FY97 Annual Report tell the story of our new paradigm for public involvement in the Army’s Chemical Demilitarization Program.

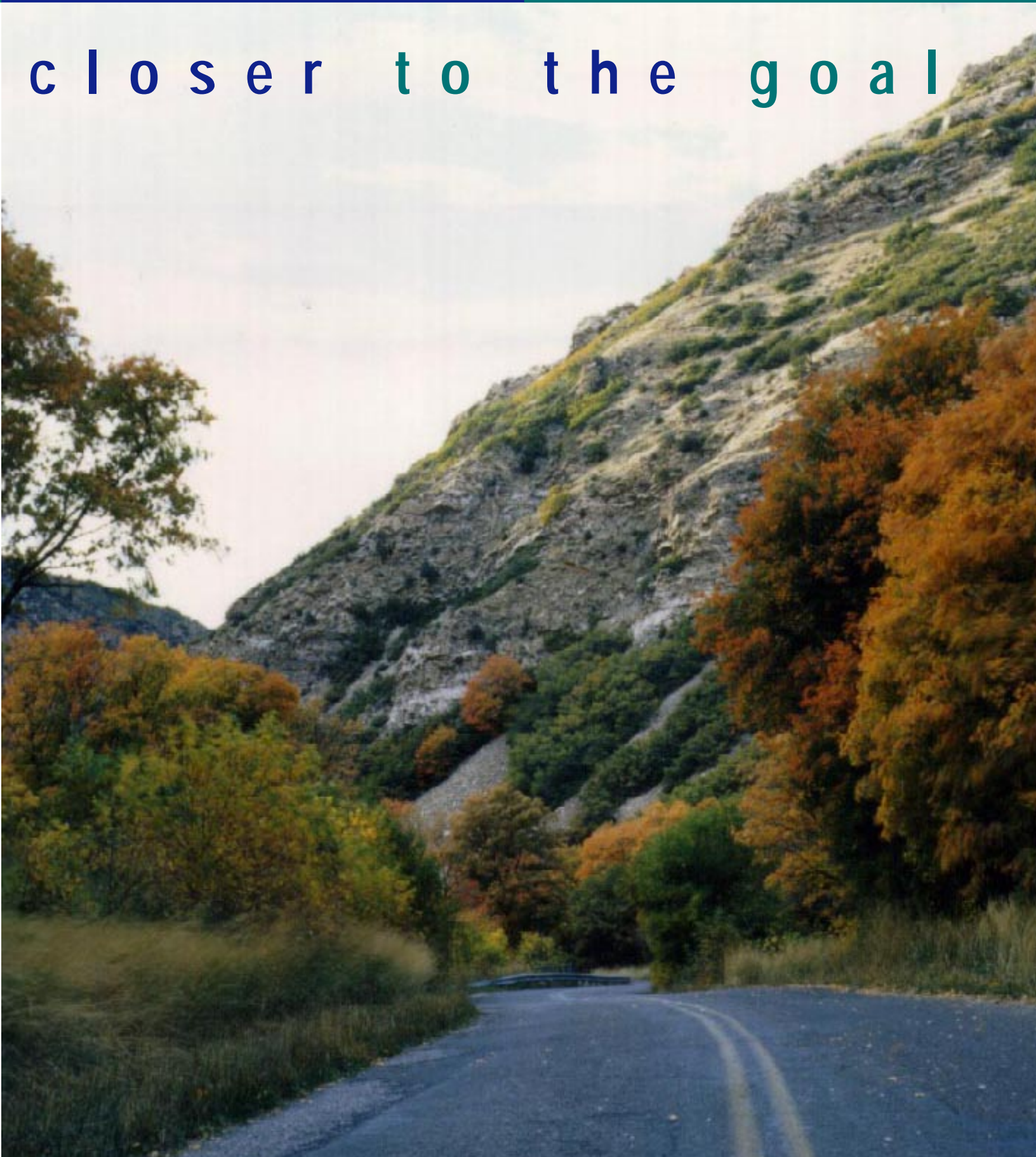
Our new approach is just beginning and we won’t rest on past success stories. Stakeholders across the country can expect even more oversight and involvement opportunities. For instance, the Change Management process is in the rollout stages. There are still environmental

reviews and risk assessments to be evaluated. As the Chemical Demilitarization Program matures and disposal technology plans at new sites move forward, there will be opportunities to apply lessons learned and consider changes to construction and operating permits. We will capitalize on these to involve citizens in technical decision making at many levels. Enhanced cooperative agreements between the Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local emergency management organizations lay the ground work for new and expanded programs that address public safety issues in the stockpile communities.

New and better measuring and monitoring tools and feedback mechanisms such as focus groups and public surveys are in development today and will help shape our information and involvement efforts in the years to come. In the past fiscal year, the dialogue begun among our partners – the Citizens’ Advisory Commissions, the advocacy groups, the communities-at-large and the regulators – will continue, as we have found it helps us remove the remaining barriers to communication and mutual understanding.

Our accomplishments over the past year encourage us to continue our collaborative partnership with the public in safely disposing the nation’s chemical weapons stockpile. We invite and encourage you, our stakeholders, to hold us accountable for accomplishing our mission of providing a public involvement program that supports meaningful public participation and dialogue. Thank you all for challenging us to continue to strive for excellence in our work. We promise to report back again next year on our progress against this year’s benchmarks.

c l o s e r t o t h e g o a l



Acknowledgments

The Chemical Demilitarization Program Public Outreach and Information Office wishes to thank Mr. James Bacon, our Program Manager, and Major General (Ret.) Robert Orton, our former Program Manager, for their unwavering support of our programmatic public involvement efforts. We also acknowledge the Project and Product Managers who lead the individual programs. Finally, without the dedicated public involvement teams at each of the installations, depots and chemical activities, our programs would not reflect the interests and needs of the communities at the local sites. We extend a special acknowledgment to the public, Citizens' Advisory Commissions, local officials and oversight groups such as the National Research Council for their consistent support and constructive suggestions.

